

VLR-6/21/77 NRHP-1/30/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Christiansburg Presbyterian Church  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
107 West Main Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Christiansburg  
STATE  
Virginia  
VICINITY OF  
Ninth (William C. Wampler)  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
CODE 51  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CODE 121

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Board of Deacons c/o Chairman  
Christiansburg Presbyterian Church  
STREET & NUMBER  
107 West Main Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Christiansburg  
STATE  
Virginia  
VICINITY OF  
24073

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Montgomery County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Christiansburg  
STATE  
Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)**

TITLE  
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
DATE  
1958  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN  
Washington  
STATE  
D. C.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6, 9 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967, 1977 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Presbyterian Church, Christiansburg, Virginia, 1827 - 1927," in  
The Witness, Vol. 5, No. 1.  
Rachal, William M. E., "A Trip to the Salt Pond," in Virginia Cavalcade,  
Vol. II, No. 2, Autumn, 1952, p. 22.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, situated on West Main Street in the Montgomery County seat, is a distinctive common-bond brick structure built in the Greek Revival style by James E. Crush and completed in 1853. The original portion of the rectangular structure is four bays long, with the entrance in one of the shorter walls, and is covered with a low hipped roof. The corners of the facade are marked by plain, uncapped white pilasters which run into the encircling Doric entablature. The entry is through a portico in antis located in a slightly projecting central pedimented pavilion, the corners of which are marked by coupled Doric pilasters. The interplay of planes of varying depths created by these devices is augmented by the recessed panels built into the blank walls to either side of the central pavilion. Above the intersection of the pediment and the main roof is set a three-stage tower consisting of a low, plain base, a square belfry with coupled Doric corner pilasters enframing rectangular louvres, and a blind lantern stage with reëntrant corners. The whole is capped by an octagonal spire. The window openings along the long east and west sides have plain white wooden lintels with unadorned corner blocks and are glazed with a ten-light sash above and ten-over-ten sash below a central recessed-panel spandrel; all have louvred blinds.

There is a pediment, similar to that on the front, on the rear (north) slope of the roof. This probably reveals the former location of another projecting pavilion housing the pulpit. Expansion of the chancel, however, and two twentieth-century additions have obliterated it. Attached to the northeast corner of the rear of the original church is a three-bay, one-story gable-roofed brick ell, erected in 1906. Adjacent to this is a three-story, parapeted, brick Sunday School wing added in 1927.

In plan, the church consists of a single large room with a later chancel at the north end and with a gallery running around the other three sides. The latter can be entered only from two flights of stairs which ascend from the anta porch; there is no interior communication. The gallery is supported on finely crafted Doric columns, marked on the face of the railing by short recessed-panel pilasters. The spandrels between the pilasters are each filled with a single, long raised panel. The chancel is framed between Doric corner piers and consists of a series of receding planes, the most distant of which is embellished with two pairs of plain Doric pilasters flanking a central blind which marks the former location of a window. It is very likely that this scheme reproduces the original treatment of the shallower pulpit recess. The pews date from the nineteenth century as well.

Next to the church on the west is the former Rectory, now known as the Kinnard Smith Building and used as a parish house. This is a three-bay, two-story frame structure with a low hipped roof and interior end chimneys. It is believed to have been built in 1870.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1853                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      James E. Crush, builder

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Christiansburg Presbyterian Church belongs to an architecturally distinctive group of antebellum churches located in communities in and around the Roanoke Valley. The churches were erected in the 1840s and '50s and are in a simplified Greek Revival style with many of their details adapted from the architectural handbooks of Asher Benjamin. The buildings are temple form, usually with a portico in antis, and all are distinguished by a square belfry with a deep cornice and rectangular louvred openings framed by pairs of pilaster strips. Projecting from the belfries are steeples of varying types. Included in the group are the Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches of Fincastle (the Presbyterian Church is a remodeling of an older structure); the Salem Presbyterian Church; the Floyd Presbyterian Church; and the Bedford Presbyterian Church and former Methodist Church of Bedford. The churches were not erected by a single builder; rather various builders seem to have been involved. A relationship between these builders has not yet been determined.

The Christiansburg Presbyterian Church is probably the most architecturally refined of the group. It illustrates the keen sense of proportion that could be acquired by builders in relatively remote areas, working usually with the aid of architectural handbooks. The church's facade is a masterpiece of geometrical composition in which the architectural elements are inspired by, but not directly copied from, historical precedent. Its builder, James E. Crush, was from Fincastle and certainly was familiar with the similarly styled churches there. However, Crush has not been linked with any building activity in that town. To assist with his Christiansburg project, Crush brought from Fincastle two craftsmen, the brothers Samuel M. and James W. Hickok. The church was completed in 1853.

The Christiansburg Presbyterian congregation was organized in 1827 by the Reverend John McElhenney of Lewisburg, West Virginia. Presbyterians had been active in Montgomery County since 1791 when the first preachings were conducted by evangelists on their way to settlements on the Holston River. The congregation acquired a deed for a lot in Christiansburg in 1828 and built a brick church on it the next year. The steady growth of the congregation created the need for a larger building resulting in the present church. The church continues to serve an active congregation today.

CL, MTP

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Crush, C. W. Historical Sketch, 125th Anniversary of Presbyterian Church of Christiansburg, 1952.  
 "One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church of Christiansburg, Virginia, 1827-1952," church program, October 11, 1952.  
 Phlegar, Hunter J., "Christiansburg Presbyterian Church: A Review of Her First 100 Years," paper delivered in Christiansburg, Va., October 9, 1927, copy in archives of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	55,22,9,0	4,10,91,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The four acres comprising the property of the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church occupy the one hundred block of W. Main street, two blocks from Franklin Street, and are bounded on all four sides by streets--that on the SE being W. Main Street.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

May 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

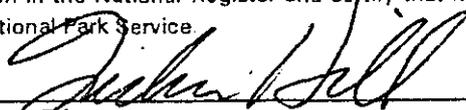
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUN 21 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

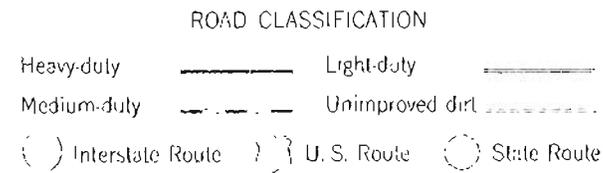
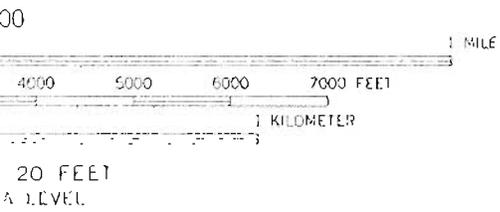
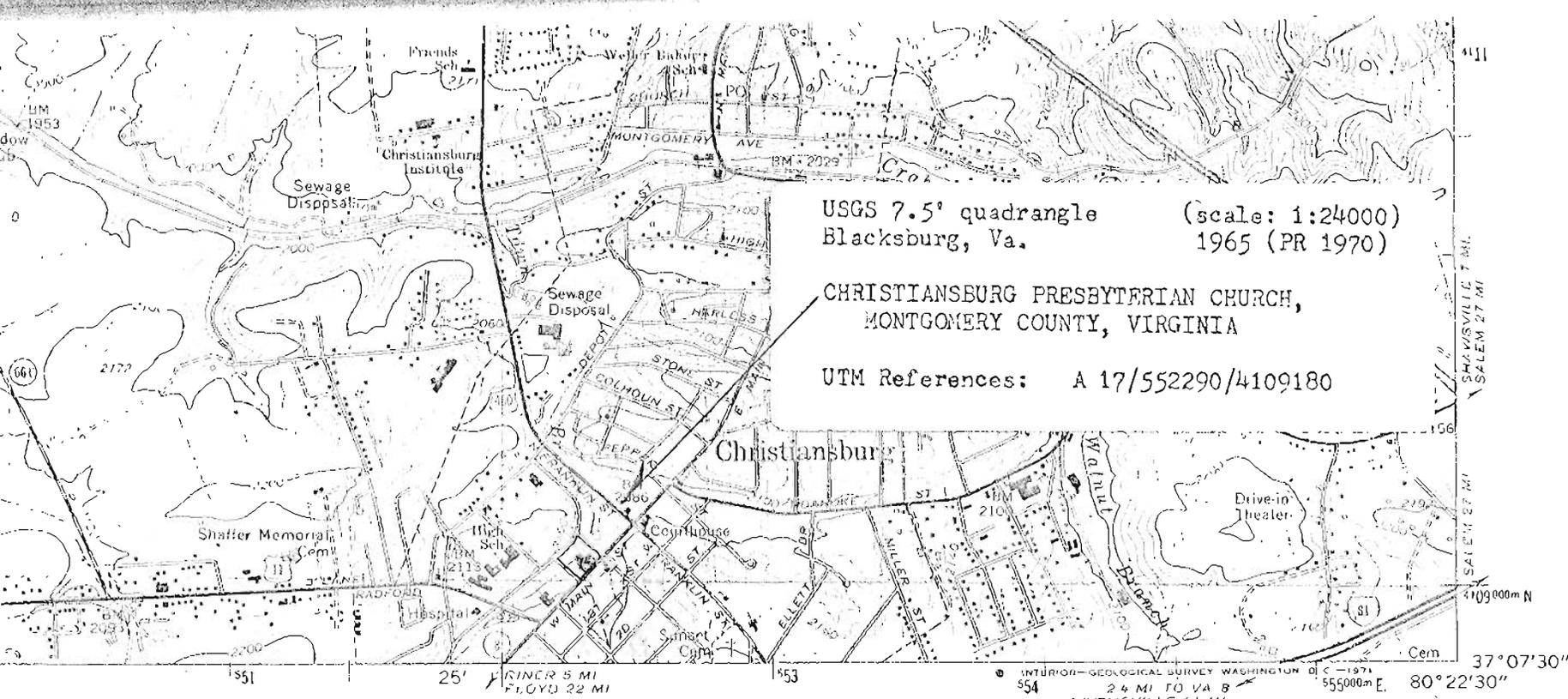
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



BLACKSBURG, VA.

N3707.5—W8022.5/7.5

1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1970  
AM 4958 III NW—SERIES V834

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FEDERAL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
MAPS, CHARLOTTEVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
PHOTOREVISION SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

(PILOT)  
1959 III SE